The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII SPRING, 1950 Number 9

SPRING TONICS

1250 A. D.

Sumer is icumen in,
Lhude sing cuccu!
Groweth sed, and bloweth med,
And springth the wude nu —
Sing cuccu!

Cuckoo Song

(Oldest English Song set to music—author unknown.)

* * * * *

1350 A. D.

The tyme, that may not sojourne,
But goth, and never may retourne,
As water that doun renneth ay,
But never drope retourne may.

The Romaunt of the Rose
G. Chaucer

* * * * *

1850 A. D.

Up! Up! My friend, and clear your looks;
Why all this toil and trouble? . . . .
One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good
Than all the sages can.

The Tables Turned—
Wm. Wordsworth

* * * * *

1950 A. D.

Winter is agoin' out,
Coal is goin' tu;
Croweth John, the cocky man,
Hys miners likeways cu—
Singeth yu?

Me tu!

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 500 Copies

OFFICERS OF THE HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

President—Arthur Riordan
Vice-President—Fred F. Celce
Secretary-Treasurer—Allen G. Rice

EDITORIAL BOARD

Edward P. Bagg, *Editor-in-Chief*
Eoline Dubois Jerome Whitney

AUXILIUM UXORUM MEDICALUM

Still more evidence of conservative habits of thinking in medical practitioners of Massachusetts is seen in the long delay in calling the distaff side to aid in unravelling knotty problems. Not until the chips were down,—or should we say, had fallen wherever they might in the wake of axmen such as Messrs. Dingley, Cohen and Ewing,—was the old Bay State ranged alongside of several younger and more assertive sister commonwealths with a professing Women's Auxiliary.

Perhaps the tactics used by Mrs. Emmeline Parkhurst, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Carrie Chapman Catt,—or was it Carrie Crackpot Nation?—on both sides of the Atlantic, left distracting memories that obliterated from consciousness such good works as the introduction to England two centuries ago of the Turkish method of preventive inoculation against Smallpox by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. "I am inclined," wrote motherless Mary, who grew up in her father's library, "to think . . . that nature has not placed (women) in an inferior rank to men, no more than the females of other animals, where we see no distinction of capacity; though I am persuaded, if there was a commonwealth of rational horses, as Doctor Swift has supposed, it would be an established maxim among them that a mare could not be taught to pace."*

Since that stirring Eighteenth Century, however, Eleanor ubiquitously has had her day, the venerable Massachusetts Medical Society at last has established a State Womens' Auxiliary, (May, 1948), and even the Harvard School of Medicine, for the first time in history now permits students from the fair sex to matriculate. It was high time, "later, (perhaps), than we thought," that women came, as they have come hearteningly, to our rescue in the Hampden District.

Ladies, you are thrice welcome; in the name of Father Hippocrates, of Hygeia, daughter of Æsculapius and even, it may be, of Hypatia, the brilliant Alexandrine who was torn asunder by fanatics calling themselves Christines.** Come, show the world not only that you can, but, **Malgré Mme. Montagu,** will learn to set a smooth and space-consuming pace.

* Letter to her daughter, Countess of Bute. Columbia University Course in Literature, XII—254.

** Romance by Charles Kingsley, 1853.

Margaret M. O'Brien, R. N. Telephone 2-5960
O'Brien Sick Room Supplies
(Medical and Surgical)
Authorized Camp Service
137½ State Street Springfield, Mass.

Address Correspondence to Secretary:
Dr. W. A. R. Chapin
121 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass.
Telephone 2-7213

Professional Bldg. Pharmacy
Inc.
18 Maple Street Springfield

Dentists & Surgeons Supply Co.
340 Bridge Street
Springfield Massachusetts

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Recommended By The Executive Committee

In order to clarify the status of the Hippocrat, the Executive Committee recommends the adoption of the following amendments to the by-laws:

Chapter V

Section 1. The third paragraph beginning with the words, "Four fellows", be deleted, and there be substituted for it, "Four fellows shall be elected to the Board of Editors by the Executive Committee immediately after each annual meeting of the District Society. One of those so elected shall be designated Editor-in-Chief, and another, Secretary and Business Manager."

Section 2. Be deleted entirely and there be substituted for it, "The District Society shall defray all costs over and above income received from the publication of the Hampden Hippocrat."

Section 3. The word, "twelve," be deleted and there be substituted for it the word, "six."

In order to add continuity of effort to its interim function, the Executive Committee recommends the adoption of the following amendments to the by-laws:

Chapter III

Section 2. In the first clause of the first sentence substitute for the word, "four," the word, "one"; delete the letter "s" from the word, "members"; and add to the clause the words, "for a term of four years."

Section 5. Be deleted entirely and there be substituted for it, "The Executive Committee of the District Society shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and of four members of the District Society (of whom not more than two practice in Spingfield), one of the four to be elected at each Annual Meeting of the District Society for a term of four years; except that at the Annual Meeting in 1950 four shall be elected, one for one year, one for two years, one for three, and one for four years."

Do you want the Hippocrat continued? .....

Do you want a larger and more expensive sheet with more advertising? .....

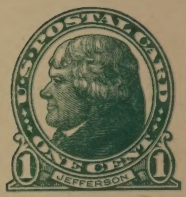
Do you want your copy sent to your office or home? If home (because of auxiliary) give address:

.....

.....

Have you any suggestions?

signature: .....



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. W. A. R. Chapin

121 Chestnut Street

Springfield, 3, Massachusetts

The Bear Was Great

Further research into the personality of Dr. Samuel Johnson reveals the interesting reaction of a superior mentality to a harsh environment. In the first place, birth delivered him into the hands of a melancholy bookseller who was better at books than he was at business management and the rearing of children. Old Michael Johnson, in fact, wasted no words on the wife whom he thought was unable to help him with discussion. Between them, however, they planted in the boy an eradicable respect for authority both for church and state. But their son found little parental response to his craving for affection.

Even without crediting the legend of the infant who beat his nurse for following him to solicitously,* young Samuel manifested exceptional precocity right from the start. At the tender age of two and a half years his mother, on the advice of Lichfield's celebrated physician, Sir John Floyer, took him to London so that Queen Anne might touch her child for the king's evil, scrofula. He remembered as he later said, "confused but somehow sort of solemn recollection of a lady in diamonds and a long black hood." But Boswell told him that his mother had not carried him far enough. "She," said the sceptic with a smile, "Should have taken him to Rome." The ugly scars of this glandular form of tuberculosis so prevalent in children of the 18th century, persisted all his life. Because the sight of one eye was virtually destroyed, the undisguisable ugliness must have tinctured much of his thought and feeling, just as Sinclair Lewis' repulsive adolescent acne pustules seem today to underlie the castgations of his fellow men.

There are numerous other instances. Dame Oliver, his first English teacher, declared that Samuel was "The best scholar she had ever had." In Latin, too, he excelled, in fact was reputed to be exceeded in this field by no other man of his time. When Mr. Langton asked how he had acquired such an accurate knowledge of Latin, Dr. Johnson gave the credit to Head-master Hunter of Lichfield School. "My master whipped me very well. Without that, sir, I should have done nothing . . . I would rather," he explained, "have the rod to be the general terror to all, to make them learn, than tell the child if you do thus and thus, you will be more esteemed than your brothers and sisters." That, he insisted is the surest way to make them hate each other, but the rod produces an effect which terminates in itself and the job gets done.

Again when he entered as a Commoner at Pembroke College, Oxford, in his nineteenth year, the examiner told him that he was the best qualified applicant that he had ever known to come there. His father had found fault with him during the previous years at home for wasting his time and not settling on some career. "I would not have you think," Johnson explained to Boswell, "that I was doing nothing then . . . in this irregular manner I had looked into a great many books which were not commonly known at the University where they seldom read any books but what were put into their hands by

COMPLIMENTS
Curran-Jones
WEST SPRINGFIELD

Harris Pharmacy
139 Chestnut Street
Springfield Massachusetts

their tutors." Boswell's comment seems justified: "He might, perhaps, have studied assiduously; but it may be doubted whether such a mind as his was not more enriched by roaming at large in the fields of literature, than if it had been confined . . . in a college cell to stated tasks."

*Johnson Agonistes, Bertrand H. Bronson, P 1, Cambridge University Press, 1946.

Like other brilliant students before and since, Samuel Johnson suffered a nervous collapse that plunged him into gloom and despair. "Sometimes" he confessed, "I felt so lanquid and inefficient that I could not distinguish the hour on the town clock." Long walks and other physical efforts to throw off the depression were unavailing. He even feared that he might go mad. This disturbing question recurred at intervals to torment him for the rest of his life. According to Boswell, "He never afterwards was perfectly relieved; and all his labors and all his enjoyments were but temporary interruptions of this baleful influence." The victim himself traced the gradations of his malady with exquisite nicety in one of the chapters of "Rasselas," his popular tale of Abbyssinia.

Thomas Babington Macaulay enumerated the conflicts in makeup that distinquished Johnson from other men. His great bulk and muscular strength were offset by awkwardness and infirmities; though quick to learn, he early showed a morbid propensity to sloth and procrastination; his kind and generous heart often was masked by a gloomy and irritable temper. However, according to the same authority, the force of his mind overcame every impediment. Macaulay also described his life at Oxford; poor, even ragged, he was driven from the quadrangle of Christ Church when the holes in his shoes drew sneers from snobbish fellow students. Once he found a new pair placed before his door and cast them from him in fury. Frequently he was seen at the gate of Pembroke College haranguing the circle that gathered there, holding them with his wit and audacity in spite of tattered gown and dirty linen. In every mutiny against college discipline he was said to be the ringleader. In later life when Boswell reminded Dr. Johnson that he had earned a reputation of being a frolicsome fellow at Oxford, "Ah. sir," he replied, "I was mad and violent. It was bitterness which they mistook for frolic. I was miserably poor, and I thought to fight my way by my literature and my wit, so I disregarded all power and authority."*

Bertrand H. Bronson adds another characteristic; aggressive physical courage even to the point of recklessness. Modern psychologists doubtless would prefer the classification of a protective reaction to fear. "Scoundrel" was the word that came with surprising rediness to the Lexicographer's lips to describe anyone who feared anything,—but also anyone who went to bed before 12 o'clock. Emotion later colored definitions and questions of usage in his major opus, the Dictionary. Boswell reported instances of his foolhardiness. Once while swimming with a friend at Oxford, though warned that a certain pool in the river was especially dangerous, young Johnson swam straight into it. Again when attacked by a gang of four men at night in a London street he "Kept them all at bay until the watch came up."

In his third year, Our Commoner was forced to leave Oxford because his father's business failed. A year later the harrased bookseller died, leaving a mere pittance to his wife and not over 20 pounds to his son.

* Boswell's Life I.

For the next thirty years the life of Samuel Johnson continued to be a hard struggle with poverty. The times were particularly difficult for writers who must live by their literary earnings. Patronage by the great personages had ceased and the public had not yet assumed this burden. One publisher advised the youth to get a porter's knot and carry trunks. At least he would have had regular meals. Is it any wonder then that his manners became almost savage, and that he "dressed like a scarecrow and ate like a cormorant," He was so hungry that he would

(Continued on page 7)

P.P.P.

These are not what you would infer from the title. They are excerpts entitled "Pity the Poor Pediatricin" and are furnished by one of them with understandable reluctance. Perhaps Pediatricins don't work any harder or put in any more time than anybody else in this medical business, but I do think they definitely are more harassed and heckled, yes sprinkled, than any other branch of the profession.

Of course, the telephone is the chief source of irritation. As far as I know, there is no answer to this problem except to answer the telephone. Perhaps the parents of little children are no dumber than the population at large, but I think this might be open to argument. On the average they are younger than the majority of married couples and have had less experience in the ills of life. Perhaps they are more worried about the aches and pains of their children than they would be about their own, particularly as the children can't describe their ailments as well, or not at all. Anyhow, judging from the questions that come over the telephone, the I. Q. behind the voices would seem to be pretty low.

Most Pediatricins have what they call a "telephone hour" each morning. Mine happens to be from 8 to 9. Of course, this doesn't mean that there is no telephoning at other times of the day or night, because there is. But between 8 and 9 I don't do anything else, except one thing. I take the telephone off the hook! In my earlier days, I used to have a telephone cord long enough to accommodate my end, but not any more. I used to get caught for half an hour or so at a stretch until paresthesia set in. So now I take it off the hook and have a little peace. Once in a while the repair man calls up because somebody reported the telephone out of order. But after I have explained to him that I have to take it off the hook for a short period each morning, he says he understands, compliments me on my regularity with not a little envy in his voice and says he won't bother me again.

People learn, too, that I will answer the telephone before 8. If they have had difficulty in getting the line between 8 and 9 they'll call between 7:30 and 8. This is apt to be bad for me for I don't get up until 7. If I hurry I can get through breakfast by 7:30 but if I am a little late and they begin to call up before I finish breakfast my eggs get really scrambled. Of course, I could refuse to answer it and let the Exchange take over, but if I did that I'd have to call the patient back. If you have tried to get someone on a four party line you can understand my disinclination to do this.

Another thing that is rather irritating is a lack of pencil and paper at the other end of the line. Many of the phone calls are for increases of formulas. Usually I'm smart enough to ask mama if she has a pencil handy but sometimes I forget, and after I get through giving her a nice long string of increases she says, "Wait a minute I think I'd better get a pencil and take this down." Ocassionally, after going through the rigamarole, mama has the nerve to ask me if I will explain the figures for her.

The phone call that arrives just before the alarm goes off is always hard to cope with. I must admit I'm not too brisk before I have had some coffee and when a mama calls up and says she is terribly worried, I try to gather my wits together. So I calmly ask what she is worried about and she says, "You remember you told me to give my baby an enema last October. Well I did and now it is December and she has not passed it yet; what shall I do?" Of course, I try to cover the irritation in my voice and explain that she doesn't need to worry but it sure starts

(Continued on page 8)

Surgical Supply Company
22 Railroad Street Holyoke

Notes From Areal Meeting
American Academy of Pediatrics
March 29 - April 1, 1950

According to Dr. Louis Diamond, it is improbable that living platelets survive transfusion of blood with the glass and rubber apparatus employed today, but within a year viable platelets should be available for therapeutic use. Transfusions of 5 c. c. per pound (from female donors,) repeated if need be, are preferable to large increases in blood volume regardless of the red count because of the danger of pulmonary hemorrhage. He advises that suspected erythroblastotic infants be allowed to go to term unless it is the last attempt of a Mother who has lost several infants. Kernicterus, from his figures, is more frequent in prematures and is the most dangerous complication. The threat of erythroblastosis fetalis even with slight degrees of jaundice is not ruled out until 72 hours have passed.

Typically such infants exhibit a gray-green color, lie with head retracted, back stiff and fists clenched. Vitamine K should be given, 5 mg. at once and 2.5 mg. every twenty-four hours.

Dr. Charles May, now of the University of Minnesota, warned that all vitamins given in excess will prove toxic. Therefore, do not overdose. In megaloblastic anemia, however, 200 mg. of Vitamin C (with 4 mg. Folic Acid and 2-4 c.c. of liver extract) should be given intramuscularly daily, then by mouth when tolerated until the cells show a response.

Dr. Douglas T. Davidson, Jr., associated with Dr. Lennox in the Siezure Clinic of Boston's Children's Medical Center, advised when giving Mesantoin, Tridione and Paradoine for the control of siezures, monthly blood counts are necessary. If the neutrophilic-leucocytes go below 1800, stop. If they reach 1000, give anti-biotics to prevent fatal infection. But remember, abrupt withdrawal may bring on status epilepeicus. For the treatment of convulsions, barbitinates should be given intramuscularly in sufficient dosage to control; 1 gr. per fifteen pounds at start, then ½ gr. per 15 pounds, repeated in 15 minutes if necessary, and every 4 to 6 hours for 24 hours. Damage to the brain cells from severe siezures thus can be avoided.

Pneumoencephalograms should not be a routine measure for diagnosis, though subdural taps are indicated. The most important procedure is the electroencephalogram.

TOP NORMAL DAILY DOSAGE FOR SIEZURE PATIENTS

	Drug	AGE 1 yr.	6 yrs.	12 yrs.
Psycho-motor Convulsions	Phenobarbitol	2 gr.	3 gr.	3 gr.
	Mebaral	3	4	6
	Dilantin	1½	4½	6
Petit mal	Mesantoin	1½	4½	7½
	Tridione	10	20	50
	Paradione	10	20	50

Dr. E. B. McLean of Philadelphia urged that 100 c.c. of blood containing iron enough to last him 5 months be saved for the infant by not cutting the cord until pulsation has ceased.

Mothers may be given prophylactic high dietary iron with 16-20 mg. ferrous iron daily—more if deficient—but if anemia is discovered late in pregnancy, saccharated oxide of iron (100 mg. daily) may be given intravenously.

If infants are born of anemic mothers, prophylactic iron must be given to them in 3 or 4 weeks, (2½ grains daily in syrup and orange juice). Blood counts every other day would be frequent enough in following response of reticulocytes.

VI-SYNERAL
Trade Mark Reg U S Pat Off Brand of
VITAMINS and MINERALS

MURRAY-GO-ROUND

In spite of the bankrupting costs and the serious situation that is confronting English physicians and driving them to non-cooperation, as reported in the British Medical Journal of the Harrow division, "except for necessary medical attention unless the gorvernment raised fees by July," our undeterred Senator from Montana, James E. Murray, still insists that compulsory insurance is the best of all national health plans. (Gerald Gross' Washington Report). "The Taft and Hill bills are damned by the means test," he said. The Senator Flanders-Ives-Herter bill claims to be "inadequate and unworkable," and the Bosone bill would mean "a horde of beaurocratic snoopers and amateur F. B. I.'s searching into the affairs of doctors, hospitals and patients."

To quote the Gross report further, "On the same platform with Senator Murray, Director Harry Becker of United Auto Workers' social security department argued that the answer to financing of health services lies in prepayment. Blue Cross has gone a long way and Blue Shield has made a start, he said. Government must fill the gaps and assist in coordination of methods of prepayment but with continued improvement of voluntary measures, according to Becker, who concluded: 'If the medical profession fails to work with the people in the solution of their mutual problems, the people—who, after all, are the government—will take the next step."

That is forthright enough, and sensible too. Federal, State, and Municipal funds should be used to pay prepayment insurance such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the care of their charges. Acquaint your legislators with your opinions on important issues with your own words and forward suggestions to those who are receptive, but give more credence to individual menages than to stereotyed propaganda with which they are flooded. Our legislative committee, too, can count on the help of our new Auxiliary. Organized labor knows what it wants and means to have it—Do organized medical men know what they want? If so, something should be done about it except objecting to assessments.

The Bear Was Great

(Continued from Page 4)

down his food and tore his meat like an animal. It is reported that he ate enormously (when he could) of roast pork and veal pie stuffed with plums and sugar, and consumed as many as twenty-five cups of tea at a sitting.

Poverty did have a real influence on the character of Samuel Johnson, so Pope's arguments for the benefits of poverty stirred in him real resentment. Also when Soame Jenyns wrote "Poverty or want of riches is generally compensated by having more hopes, and fewer fears, by a great share of health, and a more exquisite relish of the smallest enjoyments," Johnson offered this stern reproof; "hope and fear are inseparably, and very frequently, connected with poverty and riches. My surveys of life have not informed me the milder degrees of poverty are sometimes supported by hope, but the more severe often sink down in motionless despondence. Life must be seen before it can be known." This author and Pope perhaps never saw the miseries which they imagine thus easily would be borne. The poor, indeed, "are insensible of any little enjoyments of the rich. They are not pained by causual incivility; or mortified by the mutilations of a compliment: but this happiness is like that of a malefactor, who ceases to feel the cords that bind him, when the pincers are tearing his flesh."* (On the contrary), he wrote to Boswell, "he who has money to spare, has it always in his power to benefit others."† We are told that the good Doctor habitually emptied his pockets for

(Continued on Page 8)

Absorbine Jr.

those in greater need than himself, even placing coppers in the fists of poor urchins as they slept on door steps.

From the foregoing quotations we may gather, as Bronson notes, that Johnson perceived clearly enough the fundamental contradictions between logic and life. Evidently he disliked meta-physicians. To him metaphysical systems were barren, while the great mysteries of life and death, in Bronson's words, "beat every hour inexorably at man's door."

Time, too, is inexorable in putting an end to this chapter. As for me, I also dislike overdosing.

S. Q. Lapius

*Works VI—54.
† Life II—423.

P. P. P.

(Continued from page 5)

the morning out right with a set-up exercise in restraint.

I still get the heebe-jeebees whenever I tell a mother to give the baby an enema, after another phone experience. I gave the usual enema routine and thought no more about it until an hour or so later when mama called up and wanted to know how she could keep the baby from choking on the enema. After that I've gone to profane if unspoken lengths to make sure mama knows the syringe end of her baby beyond question.

Of course, the telephone isn't the only irritating procedure although it forms a sort of back-ground or undertow to the rest of the business, but that will do for now.

P. P.

Springfield Medical Supply Co.
New and Used Equipment
173 Chestnut Street
Springfield . . Massachusetts

COMPLIMENTS
Ernest A. Byron
SPRINGFIELD

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
of the Hampden District Medical Society

At the request of Dr. Arthur Riordan, wives of members of the Hampden District Medical Society were invited to meet on February 1, 1950 for the purpose of considering the advisibility of forming a Women's Auxiliary. 71 women attended this meeting and heard Dr. John Conlon, Chief of the Education Department of the State Medical Society. Dr. Conlon told of the concerted efforts throughout the country on the part of physicians, medical societies and auxiliaries to combat socialized medicine. To keep politics out of medicine the campaign must continue. Because she has more time than the physician, because of the civic and social contacts she has, and because of her intimate knowledge of medical and family health problems, the doctor's wife may make a vital contribution.

The Woman's Auxiliaries have been asked to accept responsibility for the following activities:

1. An effective endorsement drive among women's organizations.
2. Participation in the work of the Medical Societies' Speakers Bureaus.
3. A well organized literature distribution system.
4. Newsworthy publicity to women's page editors.

It was voted to form an Auxiliary in Hampden District, and the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. James A. Seaman; Vice-president, Mrs. Martin Gaynor; Secretary, Mrs. James Visconti; Treasurer, Mrs. H. H. Shuman; Advisory Committee, Dr. George B. Corcoran, Sr., Dr. Fred Hagler, and Dr. Edward Bagg.

At the annual meeting held on April 11, 1950, the above named officers were elected to serve for the coming year.

Mrs. William J. Kisel was named chairman of the legislative committee; Mrs. Martin Gaynor, program chairman; Mrs. Roger H. Cheney, publicity chairman; Mrs. John Turner, public relations; Mrs. George Steele, hospitality; Mrs. Thomas Rielly, telephone, and Mrs. A. G. Lavoie, membership.